



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Health Care Quality and Cost Council
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JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Chair

KATHARINE LONDON
Executive Director

Health Care Quality and Cost Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

1:00p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

One Ashburton Place, 21st floor

Boston, MA 02108

Attendees: JudyAnn Bigby (chair), Charles Baker, Kevin Beagan, Elizabeth Capstick, James Conway, Christopher DeLorey, David Friedman, Ken LaBresh, Joseph Lawler, Katharine London, Dolores Mitchell, Robert Seifert, Gregory Sullivan.

JudyAnn Bigby called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

I. Executive Director's Report

- There is a new member of the HCQCC Staff. Gilles Charest joins the HCQCC staff as the Healthcare Project Manager. He joins us just in time for the Data Manager RFP review and will be the key person working closely with the Data Manager in the upcoming months. Also, we will be getting some staff assistance from DPH.
- The Council's Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place this Friday, September 21, 2007 at the JFK Library in Boston. The Annual Meeting will highlight the goals we have established for the Commonwealth. There will be panel presentations on Public Reporting of Comparative Health Care Quality and Cost Data, Preventing Hospital Acquired Infections, and Disparities. The agenda is currently posted on the Council Website. We have about 160 people registered so far to attend the meeting on Friday (including Councilors and staff). We'll probably get a few walk-ins as well.

II. Items for Discussion

A. Discussion of Draft Changes to Regulation 129 CMR 2.00 Uniform Reporting System for Health Care Claims Data Sets.

- The Council held a Public Hearing on August 7, 2007 in Response to Regulation 129 CMR 1.00. We had two testifiers and we received a handful of written testimony. The testimony and a copy of the regulation are posted on the HCQCC website. The record closing date for the general public was August 17, and August 29 for members of the Advisory Committee.

- The Secretary of State reserves chapter 1.00 for regulations governing adjudicatory proceedings. Regulation 129 CMR 1.00 has been renumbered to 129 CMR 2.00. The document distributed today includes redlined changes from the proposed version of the regulation. Changes to the proposal include:
 - a. Carriers are required to submit claims data for all **Massachusetts resident members** who receive services under a policy issued in Massachusetts. Carriers would not be required to submit claims data for non-Massachusetts residents, who are not our primary concern, and would require substantially more work for some carriers to report.
 - b. Third party administrators would be permitted but not required to submit data. The Council does not yet have the authority to require these entities to submit data. The Council could add these entities to the regulation as soon as the legislature gives us the authority.
 - c. Minor corrections, including a couple paragraphs moved from section 2.10 to section 2.09.

B. Discussion of Review Team Recommendation for a Health Care Claims Data Manager vendor

Kevin Beagan reported on the Data Manager RFP review process. Four bidders responded to the RFP by August 31, 2007. The RFP Review Team included Kevin Beagan (Division of Insurance); Walton Chan (State Auditor's Office) Gilles Charest (HCQCC); Paul Hamnett (Institute for Healthcare Improvement), Michael Kelleher (Group Insurance Commission); and Michael Varadian (Office of the Inspector General). The RFP Review team was responsible for identifying the responsive and responsible firm submitting the most advantageous proposal, taking into consideration firm's experience, expertise, staff capacity, references, and plan of services, as well as the proposed price.

The Review Team reviewed the four proposals and invited all four bidders to make an oral presentation. The Review Team scored each proposal based upon the submitter's (1) plan to collect, validate and store data; (2) staffing plan; (3) expertise as a data manager; (4) expertise in supporting companies transmitting data; (5) relevant experience with this type of project; (6) oral presentation; and (7) cost proposal. Each item, except the cost proposal, was given a score ranging from 0 (an unacceptable response) to 5 (a highly advantageous response). The cost proposal was reviewed after the group evaluated each of the proposals based on the other criteria. The review team rated three of the four proposals "Highly Advantageous" and one proposal "Advantageous." The price bids varied significantly – a 200% difference from the lowest to the highest.

The RFP Review Team recommended that the Health Care Quality and Cost Council contract with the Maine Health Information Center (MHIC) to be its Data Manager on October 1, 2007 and for the duration of the 21-month contract.

Council discussed data scrubbing and the bidder's level of attention to this matter. Members of the review team states that a great deal of focus in this area during the proposal reviews and the oral presentations. Some bidders were general and spoke about the importance of accuracy in dates and numbers, while others focused on the specifics and talked about the reliability tests built into their current system.

The Council discussed the reference check process. Gilles Charest, HCQCC Project Manager and review team member, completed the reference checks for all four bidders. The bidders were scored in this area based on the criteria's listed on the RFP. This information is available and will be submitted to the council for review.

Council recommends that before moving forward with the review team's recommendation, council members' receive the review the vendor's financial audit and look over the review team's RFP score spreadsheet. It is important that we understand what we are working with in choosing this vendor. Katharine London will submit to the council a copy of the review team's ratings and comments for each bidder. The council will hold the vote until the review is completed.

Meeting Adjourned 3:00pm